Vermont Data Enhancement Project (V-DEP)

The overall goal of the V-DEP is to build on Vermont's current work to create a comprehensive, P-20 longitudinal data system that includes all required data system capabilities and elements, markedly improving the ability of the education system at every level to use data to improve achievement, close gaps, and achieve equity.

To achieve this goal, this project will leverage and expand existing P-12, postsecondary, workforce and human service partnerships and seek the involvement of students, parents, educators, researchers and government partners to identify effective instructional practices, inform policy, and create a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. This work will be informed by Vermont's continuing collaboration with the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut through the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC), by developing regionally-comparable indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of these instructional strategies and forming a multi-state research partnership.

The project is designed to meet or exceed the seven capabilities and 12 elements as prescribed in the America COMPETES Act, enable timely and accurate reporting, and provide training to stakeholders in collecting and reporting quality data and how to use and interpret data. To support this work, Vermont will carry out the following major activities:

1. Implement a uniform statewide information system toolset for all Vermont districts utilizing the School Interoperability Framework (SIF) including a portal for parents, students, and educators;
2. Develop a state operational data store to house required data elements;
3. Expand the data warehouse to include all required data system elements and increase the frequency of data loads to facilitate state and federal reporting requirements;
4. Provide stakeholder training for statewide student information system, data warehouse reports, and portal;
5. Form a P-20 research partnership to assess stakeholder needs, develop a research agenda, disseminate findings, and institute a professional development/feedback plan to improve education system practices.

The expected outcomes of these activities include:

1. Vermont will meet the seven capabilities and 12 elements required by this longitudinal data systems grant. Specifically,
   a. Elimination of data gaps including linking teachers to students, transcript data, post-secondary data, and workforce data;
   b. Improved data exchange between VT DOE and other Vermont agencies;
   c. Improved accuracy and timeliness of data availability;
   d. Increased accessibility to data for all stakeholders;
   e. Increased efficiency in maintaining student identifiers.
2. Vermont will have concrete strategies to ensure that the data will support continuous improvement, especially instructional improvement, and informed decision-making by school, district and education leaders.
3. Vermont will have a comprehensive research plan guiding effective and appropriate use of the available education data.
4. Statewide, Vermont will have improved efficiency and reduced burden of data collecting and reporting.